

Appl. No. 10/026,329
Amendment dated March 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 10, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of producing nanoscale metallic colloids comprising the steps of:

- a. supplying an elemental metal, wherein the size of said elemental metal is in the range of 1-10 microns;
- b. suspending said elemental metal in a non-aqueous organic liquid that is non-reactive to the surface of said elemental metal to form a suspension;
- c. adding a dispersant to said suspension;
- d. comminuting the suspension containing the dispersant to form a mixture; and
- e. agitating the mixture at a rate and time necessary to produce nanoscale metallic colloids, and
- f. mixing said nanoscale metallic colloids with a salt solution comprising a second metal.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said elemental metal is selected from the group consisting of iron, tin, zinc and palladium and mixtures thereof.

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of claim [[3]] 1, wherein said second metal is selected from the group consisting of platinum, palladium, zinc, nickel and tin and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of drying the nanoscale metallic colloids.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the nanoscale metallic colloids in an anaerobic solution.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said nanoscale metallic colloids has a size in the range of 100-400 nanometers.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said non-aqueous organic liquid is selected from the group consisting of dodecane, butyl acetate and polypropylene glycol ethyl ether acetate and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein said comminuting is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of ball milling, rod milling and high speed gas jet agitation.

Claim 11-21 (cancelled)